

House Appropriations Committee

Fiscal Year 2013 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill

Amendment offered by Mrs. Emerson

In the bill:

On page 110, strike lines 19 through 25.

In the report:

On pages 45 and 46, strike the paragraph titled “*Political File Disclosure.*” and insert the following:

Political File Disclosure.—In April of 2012, the FCC promulgated a rule requiring broadcasters to post the contents of their political file online to a FCC-run database. Opposition was expressed to the FCC’s rule out of concern that placing sensitive pricing information on the Internet would distort the broadcasting marketplace and that broadcasters would be burdened with additional costs by having to upload this information to an FCC-run database. The Committee supports disclosure of political spending but has concerns that if there are multiple regulatory agencies maintaining on-line information about political spending that this may create confusion and waste resources. In order to understand the impact of the FCC ruling on the broadcasting market and on the operational costs of television stations and Federal Government, the Committee directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to analyze the implementation of this rule. At a minimum, their report shall include the following:

- (1) An analysis of the information maintained by the FCC compared to the information maintained by the Federal Election Commission to determine if there is duplication of costs incurred by the Federal Government for maintaining different systems for the purpose of reporting political spending and if there are benefits or shortfalls to the public of having multiple Federal regulatory agencies reporting political spending.
- (2) An analysis of the impact of requiring sensitive broadcaster pricing information be available on a FCC-run database, including whether this information has or can be used for price signaling or market manipulation.
- (3) An analysis of the impact on the operational costs of broadcasters of having to provide “immediate” updates to the FCC-run database each time a political file is updated.

GAO shall report their findings by no later than July 1, 2013. Not later than 30 days after GAO has submitted its analysis, the FCC shall report to the Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate and authorizing committees of jurisdiction on how they plan to address any concerns or recommendations suggested by GAO. No later than September 1, 2013, the FCC shall report to the Committees on Appropriations in the House and Senate and the authorizing committees of jurisdiction on actions they have taken as a result of any concerns or recommendations suggested by GAO.

On page 81, strike “Section 631.” through “political files.”